

Early Hellenistic Pottery

FROM THE THEATER EXCAVATIONS AT SAMARIA

PLATES XXVII-XXXI

BY FAUZI ZAYADIN

Systematic excavations at Samaria's theater began in October, 1965 by the Department of Antiquities, supported by U. S. A. with Dr. Paul Lapp as Advisor. Working on an area which had not been disturbed by the 1933 Expedition, we opened a control trench (section V), four metres wide, situated on the West side of the central stairway, between the Hellenistic Fort Wall (henceforth H.F.W.) and the stage. The *summa cavea* or upper part of the theater, above the *praecinctio*, provides structures and material of special interest. The stratigraphy of section V in squares 11 and 12, as seen on section fig. 1, is established as follows: In square 11, the foundation trench of the H.F.W. appeared to be cut into Iron II debris, a white limy soil very rich in sherds of the 8th Century B.C. Except upon wall A, this debris slopes downwards and covers walls B (Israelite Lower Wall) and D. In many places, Hellenistic stratigraphy overlies the limy soil, and the pottery group about to be discussed comes from layer 5 of square 12 which consists of fine dark soil, laid directly over the Iron. II debris. The stratigraphic relation of this layer to Hellenistic structures in the vicinity should become clear after further excavation which is to be undertaken in the spring of 1966.

Discussion of the typology is not the easiest job since very few stratified early Hellenistic pottery groups from Palestine have been published. The only material of great help is that studied by Mrs. Nancy Lapp in BASOR, No. 175. Our pottery has good links with the Stratum III B group from Balatah, dated to 250-225¹. But the most striking parallels are provided by the Wadi ed-Daliyeh pottery which I have been kindly shown by Dr. Lapp and permitted to refer to. Unfortunately, this group dated to the late fourth century B.C.,² is not published.

Stratigraphy of the Hellenistic floors from Field VII at Balatah has been established by Dr. Lapp in BASOR, No. 172, p. 23, note 3.

Cf. Frank Cross, "The Discovery of the Samaria Papyri", *Bib. Arch.* XXVI (Dec. 1963), pp. 110-21.

The Samaria deposits of the H.F.W. published by K. Kenyon³ are largely discussed in the *Palestinian Ceramic Chronology 200 B.C. - A.D. 70*. Though some of the pottery types are classified in this corpus, justified doubts are expressed by the author about the *terminus post quem* which he considers before 200 B.C., in many cases.⁴ This assertion is confirmed by our group and the chronology of the H.F.W. deposits should be reexamined under the light of the new discoveries.

Close dating of layer V. 12.5 is not possible for we are dealing with debris. With the evidence of the Balatah Stratum III B, Tarsus⁵, and the Agora of Athens⁶ groups, we may give a date in the first half of the third century for our pottery, with a possible extension of some forms to the end of the third century B.C. This date may be made more precise by further excavations and complete cleaning of cisterns 1 and 2 which have been uncovered in the theater area.

³ Samaria - Sebaste, III, p. 217-234.

⁴ Paul W. Lapp, *Palestinian Ceramic Chronology 200 B.C. - A.D. 70*, p. 28.

⁵ H. Goldman, *Tarsus*, vol. I.

⁶ H. Thompson, "Two Centuries of Hellenistic Pottery", *Hesperia*, III, No. 4.

SAMARIA THEATER

.1965.

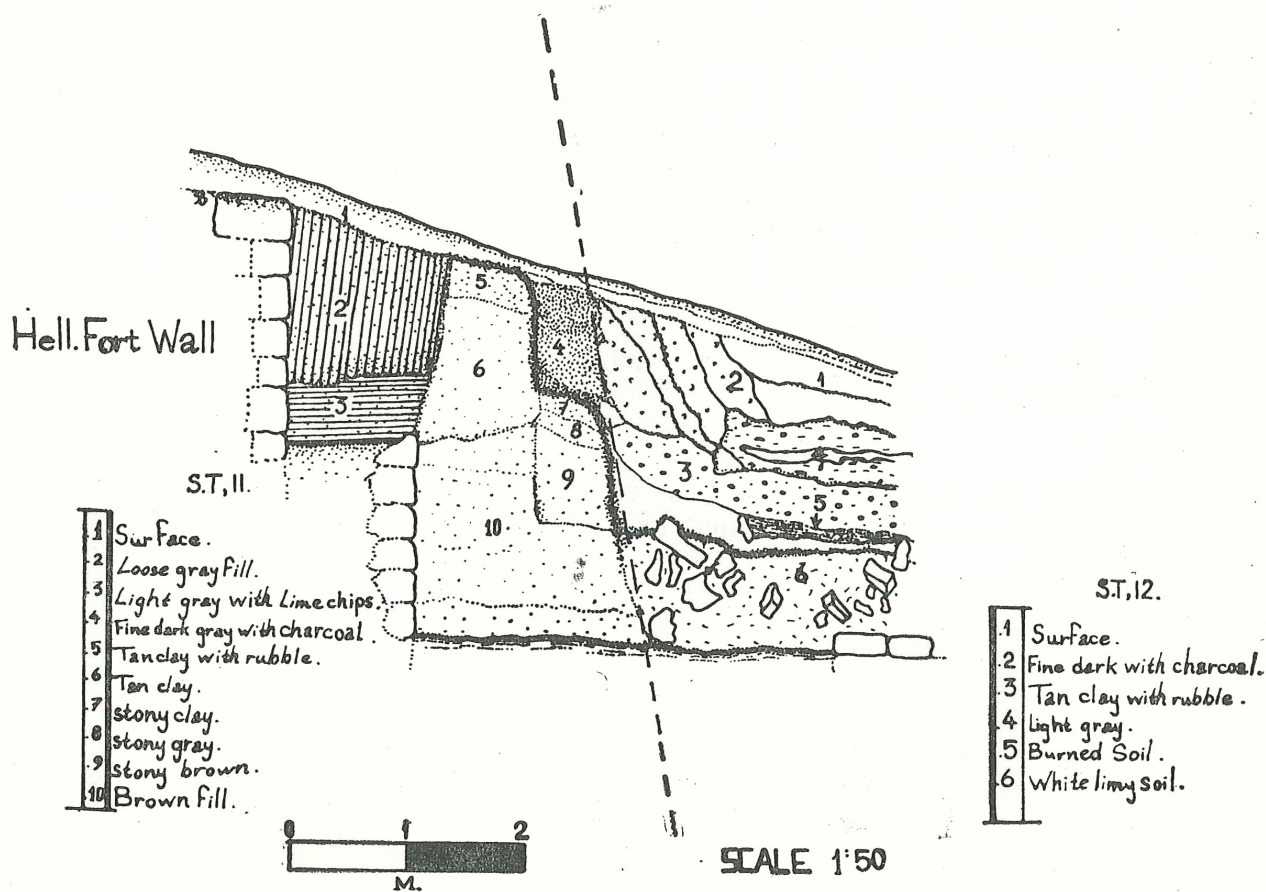


Fig. 1, section of squares 11 (left) and 12 (right).

Square 11, layers 2,3: late Roman and Byzantine

4,5: Hellenistic; 6, 7, 8, 9, 10: Iron Age.

Square 12, layers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: Hellenistic; 6: Iron Age II.

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
1	Jar rim, pinkish ware, greenish outer surface, gray inside; small to large white and dark grits.	
2	Jar rim, pinkish ware, pinkish-gray surfaces; small to large white and crystalline grits.	Wadi ed-Daliyeh
3	Jar rim, red ware, creamy-buff outer surface, many white and brown grits.	
4	Jar rim, pinkish to greenish ware; very small white grits, buff surfaces.	Balatah, Stratum III B, BASOR No. 175, fig. 1a,8
5	Jar rim, pinkish to dark ware, buff surfaces, white grits.	
6	Jar rim, buff ware, dark core; small to very large white, dark, and brown grits.	<i>Samaria-Sebaste</i> , III, fig. 42,8. "Two Centuries of Hell. Pottery", fig. 121 C. 7. 3. (third c. B. C.)
7	Jar rim, buff ware, gray core, brown and white grits.	Bethany, fig. 40:2
8	Jar rim, buff gray ware, creamy surfaces; many white and dark grits.	Balatah, Stratum IIIB, BASOR No. 175, fig. 1a:2. - Wadi ed-Daliyeh.
9	Jar rim, buff ware, creamy surfaces; many small to very large white, dark, and brown grits.	Bethany, fig. 40:2
10	Jar rim, light gray ware, buff to dark surfaces, very small to large grits.	Balatah, Stratum III B, BASOR, No. 175, fig. 1 a:2. Wadi ed-Daliyeh.
11	Jar handle, buff ware; many small to large white, gray, and brown grits, rough bottom join.	

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
12	Jar handle, buff ware, pinkish surface inside, greenish outside. Wide ripples on the body.	
13	Rhodian jar handle, pinkish ware.	Balatah, Stratum III B, BASOR, No. 175, fig. 1a:23.
14	Jar handle, red ware, pinkish surfaces; many white grits.	Balatah, Stratum III B, fig. 1a:19.
15	Jar handle, buff ware, creamy-buff surface outside, pinkish inside; small to very large white, dark, brown, and orange grits.	
16	Jar handle, dark gray ware, buff creamy surfaces; white, dark, and brown grits.	
17	Jar handle, buff greenish ware, creamy surface, small white, dark, and brown grits.	
18	Jar handle, light-orange ware, gray core, many flint, crystalline, and lime grits; poor bottom join.	
19	Jar handle, buff ware, pinkish surface inside, creamy outside; many small white brown, yellow and dark grits.	
20	Jug rim, gray ware with creamy buff surfaces; small to large white, gray, and orange grits.	
21	Jug rim, buff ware, gray surfaces, small white and brown grits.	

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
22	Jug rim, pinkish buff ware, creamy surfaces; small brown and white grits.	
23	Jug rim, pinkish buff ware, dark core; small to large white, gray, and brown grits.	Balatah, Stratum III B, fig. 1b: 24.
24	Juglet base, thin buff ware, creamy surfaces.	
25	Juglet base, gray ware, light gray surface outside, dark gray inside.	
26	Juglet base, pinkish ware, small to large white and gray grits.	
27	Bottle rim, thin buff ware, small white, dark and brown grits.	
28	Mortarium fragment, pinkish ware, greenish surfaces, white and gray grits.	
29	Mortarium fragment, dark ware, light buff surfaces; many small to large white, orange, and brown grits.	
30	Mortarium fragment, pinkish ware; small white grits.	
31	Decorated urn collar, light orange ware, creamy surfaces, red-brown and black band below rim; red-brown and black scroll starting from each side of the broken handle.	Breccia, La Necropoli di Sciatbi, pl. XLI, 54,55,56; p. 35. (Late 4th. Century B. C.).
32	Bowl fragment, pinkish-buff ware, brown to black paint inside and outside.	
33	Bowl fragment, buff ware, red-orange paint inside, dark-brown outside.	

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
34	Bowl fragment, creamy buff-ware, metallic dark-brown to black paint inside and outside.	
35	Bowl fragment, orange ware, dark-brown paint inside and outside.	
36	Bowl fragment, buff-creamy ware, black paint inside and outside.	
37	Bowl fragment, buff gray ware, black paint inside and outside.	
38	Bowl fragment, pinkish ware, black paint inside.	
39	Rim fragment, brown ware, without paint, white grits.	
40	Rim fragment, orange ware, black paint.	
41	Bowl fragment, creamy ware, brown paint inside, dark brown outside.	
42	Bowl fragment, dark ware, dark-brown to black paint inside and outside.	
43	Bowl fragment, pinkish ware, black paint inside and outside.	
44	Bowl fragment, creamy ware, black paint inside and outside.	
45	Bowl fragment, black ware, orange to brown paint outside, dark brown inside.	
46	Bowl fragment, reddish ware, brown to black paint inside, dark-brown outside.	

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
47	Hemispherical bowl fragment, buff ware, black paint inside and outside.	
48	Hemispherical bowl fragment, pinkish ware, black and brown paint inside, black paint outside.	
49	Hem. bowl fragment, buff ware, black-metallic paint inside and outside.	
50	Hem. bowl fragment, red ware, dark brown paint inside and outside.	
51	Hem. bowl fragment, gray ware, black paint inside and outside.	
52	Hem. bowl fragment, buff ware, black paint inside and outside.	
53	Hem. bowl fragment, buff ware, black paint inside and outside.	
54	Hem. bowl fragment, pinkish ware, brown to black paint inside and outside.	
55	Hem. bowl fragment, orange ware, red paint inside, dark-brown outside.	
56	Hem. bowl fragment, creamy ware, orange paint outside and inside.	
57	Hem. bowl fragment, orange ware, red paint inside, brown to dark-brown outside.	
58	Hem. bowl fragment, light buff ware, orange paint inside, orange to black outside.	

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
59	Fish plate fragment, buff ware, traces of black paint.	
60	Fish plate fragment, buff ware, dark-brown to black paint, mostly flaked.	
61	Fish plate fragment, buff ware, black paint mostly flaked out, streaky outside.	<i>Tarsus</i> , I, fig. 120,17 8, No. 26. (Late 3rd. Century B.C.)
62	Fish plate fragment, orange ware, brown to black paint inside, brown to dark-brown outside.	
63	Fish plate fragment, yellowish ware, brown to black paint outside, dark-brown inside.	
64	Fish plate rim fragment, reddish ware, blackish paint in and outside.	
65	Fish plate rim fragment, brownish ware, black paint.	
66	Fish plate fragment, dark gray-ware, dark-red to brown paint in and outside.	
67	Fish plate rim fragment, reddish ware, brown to dark brown patchy paint.	
68	Fish plate rim fragment, buff ware dark-olive paint inside, black paint outside.	
69	Fish plate rim fragment, creamy ware, red paint.	
70	Fish plate rim fragment, orange ware, poor red paint.	

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
71	Fish plate rim fragment, pinkish ware, traces of brown paint.	
72	Fish plate rim fragment, pinkish ware, red-brown paint.	<i>Samaria - Sebaste</i> , III, fig. 37:1
73	Fish plate fragment, creamy - pinkish ware, black glaze over brownish paint.	<i>Samaria - Sebaste</i> , III, fig. 47: 1,2 <i>Antioch</i> , IV, pl. I, H7 (late fourth and early 3rd c. B. c.) <i>Sciatbi</i> , pl. LXXXI, no. 280, <i>Tarsus</i> , I, no. 133 <i>Gezer</i> , pl. CLXXVII, 18.
74	Fish plate rim fragment, pinkish ware, black paint in, red-brown to black outside.	
75	Fish plate fragment, buff ware, brownish-blackish paint covering the upper part of the outer surface.	
76	Fish plate fragment, buff ware, traces of black paint.	
77	Fish plate rim fragment, pinkish ware, good black lustrous glaze.	"Two Centuries of Hellenistic Pottery", C 1, fig. 28, 115, 116. (Middle of the 3rd. century B. C.)
78	(see No. 77)	
79	Fish plate rim fragment, creamy ware, metallic blackish - greenish glaze.	
80	Fish plate rim fragment, buff ware, dark-brown paint, steaky outside.	
81	Cooking-pot fragment, brown ware, red-brown surfaces small to medium white and crystalline grits.	
82	Cooking-pot fragment, brown ware, many white, orange, and crystalline grits.	

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
83	Cooking-pot fragment, dark-gray ware, brown surfaces; small to large white, orange, dark, and crystalline grits.	
84	Cooking-pot fragment, dark ware, brown surfaces, many small to large white and crystalline grits, traces of burn on the outer rim and neck.	
85	Cooking-pot fragment, red-orange ware, small dark and white grits.	<i>Samaria-Sebaste</i> , III, fig. 41:4
86	Cooking-pot fragment, brown ware, very small white and dark grits.	<i>Samaria-Sebaste</i> , III, fig. 41:4
87	Cooking pot fragment, thin red ware, brown outer surfaces, small white grits.	
88	Cooking-pot fragment, heavy dark ware, brown surfaces; white and dark grits.	<i>Samaria-Sebaste</i> , III, fig. 41:9, 18. "Two Centuries of Hell. Pottery", fig. 51, C 70 (end 3rd C.B.C.).
89	(see No. 88)	
90	Cooking-pot fragment, dark ware, brown burned surfaces; small white grits.	
91	Cooking-pot fragment, dark ware, brown burned surfaces, small white and crystalline grits.	
92	Cooking-pot fragment, thin dark ware, brown surfaces; small to medium white, crystalline and gray grits.	
93	Lid fragment, light orange ware, white and gray grits.	<i>Samaria-Sebaste</i> , III, fig. 41:22.

No.	DESCRIPTION OF WARE	PARALLELS
94	Unguentarium fusiform, almost complete, heavy brown ware, orange to buff surfaces, white, brown, and dark grits.	"Two Centuries of Hell. Pottery", fig. 22, B 44; fig. 15, B 7. (325 B.C.). <i>Tarsus</i> , I, No. 248. (Late 4th B.C.).
95	Unguentarium frag., brown ware.	
96	Lamp frag., pinkish to greenish ware, small to large white grits.	
97	Lamp nozzle, pinkish ware; white grits; traces of burn.	
98	Lamp nozzle, pinkish to brown ware, small white grits.	
99	Lamp frag., creamy ware, dark olive, paint.	"Two Centuries of Hell. Pottery", fig. 50, C 60.

Fawzi ZAYADIN